Missiles Acquired by Pakistan

1631. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in Indian Express (Bombay) dated the 13th August, 1991 captioned "Indian remote sensing reaching greater heights" and if so, the information published therein is strategically competitive to meet the acquisition of latest missiles by Pakistan; and

(b) whether involvement of private sector in the manufacture programme of such equipment is expected and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Government have seen the media report in question. The Indian Remote Sensing Programme is denoted only to civil application, for the management of national natural resources, and is in no way connected with the development of Guided Missiles for military purposes.

Fertilizer price hike

1652. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article which appeared in 'Hindustan Times' dated 7th August, 1991, captioned 'Fertilizer Price Hike will hurt output', if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(b) what is the quantum of Fertilizer used (in percentage) by farmers growing cash crops and depending on well or drain irrigation and depending on rains, yearwise during the last three years and what will be the increase in price due to 30 per cent hike in subsidy in respect of Urea, NPK and Potash etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) No article with the above caption appeared in 'Hindustan Times' dated 7th August, 1991. However, an article under the said caption appeared in 'Times of India' on 7th August, 1991.

Increase in fertilizer prices was necessitated on account of increase in cost of production and also increase in international prices of intermediates used in fertilizers and revision in exchange value of the rupee.

As per present estimates of fertilizer consumption during the coming Rabi season, the increase in the price of fertilizers is not likely to affect adversely the demand for fertilizers and, therefore, in turn, agricultural production.

(b) The statistics of consumption of fertilizers is available State-wise and nutrient-wise. It is not collected separately either for different crops or for rainfed and irrigated areas. The following Table gives the consumption of fertilizers in the Country, in material and nutrient terms, during the last three years.